

HB

720

northern alaska health resources association, inc.

April 11, 1980

The Honorable Thelma Buchholdt, Chairman  
House HESS Committee  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Buchholdt:

On behalf of the Northern Alaska Health Resources Association (NAHRA), I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 720, which would establish a single advisory board for DHSS.

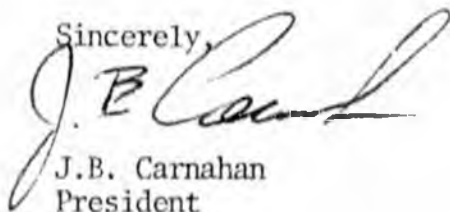
NAHRA, the Division of State Health Planning and Development, and the Statewide Health Coordinating Council exist in accordance with P.L. 93-641, as amended by P.L. 96-79. That law mandates the establishment of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) which serves as an advisory body to the Division of State Health Planning and Development of DHSS. Any state which does not have a SHCC is subject to the revocation of all federal health care dollars, including grants, contracts, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Federal requirements for many other health-related grants also mandate the existence of categorial advisory bodies. Mental health and alcoholism programs are examples.

In light of the tremendous financial sanctions associated with abolition of existing advisory boards and creation of a single board, not to mention the harm to the general welfare of the people which could result from the closure of health services and facilities, I feel it is incumbent upon the elected representatives of the state to prevent enactment of HB 720.

Please let us know your position on HB 720.

Sincerely,



J.B. Carnahan  
President

JBC/SEM/rlw

Southern Region  
**EMERGENCY**  
Medical Services Council, Inc.

February 27, 1980

Thelma Buckholdt  
Chairperson  
House HESS Committee  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska  
99811

Dear Representative Buckholdt:

The Southern Region Emergency Medical Services Council (SREMSC) is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to improving emergency medical care in Southcentral and Western Alaska. The SREMSC represents almost two-thirds of the State's population and has been very active in obtaining improved services for these people.

During the past years we have had numerous opportunities to work with the Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS). The ACEMS consists of eleven professional medical providers and consumers of emergency medical care who were selected for their knowledge of medical services or their desire to perfect outstanding emergency care system in Alaska. These volunteers serve without pay and provide a state-wide forum for the discussion of critical EMS problems. An emergency medical system is an extremely complex endeavor which requires understanding of such diverse fields as; communications, transportation, medical facilities, public safety, disaster coordination, etc. The members of the ACEMS have spent years evaluating these various technical fields and are now recognized as experts.

The public's desire to participate in emergency medical development was obvious when over sixty people were nominated to fill the initial eleven vacancies on the ACEMS. There has been a continuous waiting list of people desiring to participate as ACEMS members. This is the one opportunity that the general citizen has to help make a better emergency care system and assist in the saving of human life.

HB 720 "An Act establishing a single advisory board for the Department of Health and Social Services and abolishing existing advisory boards to the department; and providing for an effective date." envisions a single board to advise the Commissioner of Health and Social Services on all health and social matters. We believe that it is impossible for a solitary board to become competent in all phases of health and social affairs. A single specialty, such as emergency medicine, requires a significant dedication of time and effort to achieve reasonable results. The Bill provides for a subcommittee of three people to advise on all matters relating to the Division of Public Health. Since EMS is only one segment of public health, it is

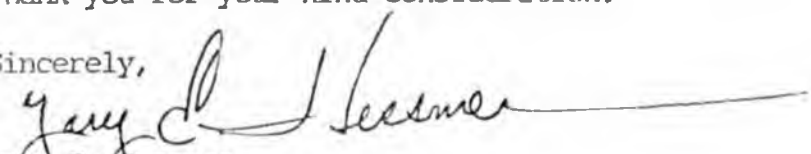
obvious that this subcommittee would not be able to devote sufficient time or effort to the improvement of emergency medicine. We feel this would rob the public of their desire to influence the EMS program and would seriously detract from the development of the system.

The members of the Southern Region EMS Council believe that HB 720 is not a good piece of legislation and should not be passed by the House HESS Committee. The ACMES is serving a very useful purpose and should continue to act in its present role and be given even more authority, if that is possible.

Mr. Richard Pauley, our Executive Administrator, will be in Juneau on March 3rd and 4th, and I would like very much for you to meet with him concerning this critical problem.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Gary E. Hessmer,  
President  
SREMSC Board of Directors

GH/inkh

Aleutian Sub Area  
Nancy Greenman  
Royal Nelsen  
Scotty Cumberlidge

Matanuska-Susitna Sub Area  
Myron Stevens  
Tom Fielding  
Gary Hessmer

Anchorage Sub Area  
Gerald Travis  
William Montgomery  
Mary Luttig

Norton Sound Sub Area  
Darryl Trigg  
Penny Chmielewski  
Pam McMillan

Bristol Bay Sub Area  
Steve Levinson  
Gordon Isaacs  
Stuart Bowdoin

Prince William Sound Sub Area  
Lydia Robart  
Barbara Sherman  
Gary Mowry

Copper River Sub Area  
Edna Charley  
Billie Peters  
Clif Palmer

Yukon-Kuskokwim Sub Area  
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Don Porter  
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Kenai Peninsula Sub Area  
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Cathy Stingley  
Greg Barclay

Directors-at-large  
Roy Davie - Communications  
Susan Callan - HSA  
Lt. John McConnaughey - Public Safety

Kodiak Borough Sub Area  
Jerome Selby

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 80-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 720.

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WHEREAS, House Bill 720 proposes to combine the nine different advisory councils within the Department of Health, Education and Social Services into one 25-member advisory council and provide for sub-committees of the central council; and

WHEREAS, passage of House Bill 720 would result in the ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES being eliminated and a sub-committee under the heading of "Public Health" would deal with the planning and implementation of a statewide emergency medical service system along with the other aspects of public health; and

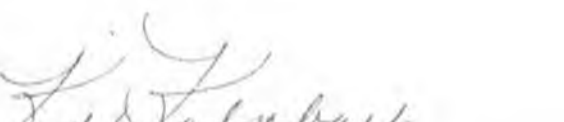
WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Emergency Medical Services Board feels that this would limit regional emergency medical services' in-put into State government and that the importance of the service, the specialized training required and liability issues involved warrant a special council to deal specifically with emergency medical services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Emergency Medical Services Board urges the State Legislature to consider the specialized field of emergency medical services in reviewing and voting upon House Bill 720.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Emergency Medical Services Board this 27th day of February, 1980.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary E. Hessmer, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Kim Kalmbach, Clerk